

Partnerships and Collaborations

OCEM's partnership strategy is an integral part of OCEM's business. Partnerships provide a mutual benefit to both OCEM and our "partners" in various efforts and activities.

For instance, rotational exchanges of personnel provide developmental opportunities to staff members as well as providing OCEM with new ideas and skills. Examples include staff exchanges between OCEM and the Office of Communications, Education and Media Relations (OCEMR), and between OCEM and the Science Advisory Board (SAB).

OCEM and SAB are working in partnership on several other projects. Together we are working to develop an effective forum for addressing strategic policy, management, and cross-cutting issues involving EPA advisory committees. We share technology and exchange database information. In addition, the two offices are working on an agreement to maintain a mutual file storage room.

Because several offices within the Office of Administrator (OA) operate FACA committees, OCEM agreed to pilot a committee management support contract. The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) provided OCEM with cooperation and financial support. That pilot effort is currently being reviewed in order to determine its effectiveness and potential usefulness to other FACA committees within the OA.

Committee management requires continual interaction with EPA programs which support the charge of the advisory committee(s). The National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) developed partnership agreements (Memorandum of Understanding) with Offices establishing temporary committees under the auspices of NACEPT. Also, negotiations were formalized with the Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation (OPEI) for the Reinvention Action Council (RAC) to serve as a forum to address strategic FACA issues. Diversity and membership agreements were developed with the American Indian Environmental Office and with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) in order to better identify qualified and diverse stakeholders for committee memberships.

OCEM's Committee Management Oversight (CMO) Team partnered with the General Services Administration (GSA) to help provide DFO and public participation training. Also, in conjunction with GSA, OCEM is hosting a government-wide Committee Management Officer meeting. This year, the CMO Team also worked with GSA to develop a FACA database for EPA using GSA's newly instituted database for FACA management.

As opportunities arise, OCEM will continue to benefit from mutual activities, funds, and goals by partnering with programs and individuals both internal and external to EPA.

OCEM's Presentations, Reports and Publications

During the past year, several reports and publications have been produced in the Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (OCEM). These reports and publications outline the activities and accomplishments of our office and the EPA advisory committees management by OCEM. They are:

- Cooperative Environmental Management - Status Report on EPA Advisory Committee, FY'99
- Federal Advisory Committees and Environmental (FACA) Decision-Making
March 2000
- FACA Brochure - April 2000
- Advisory Committees' Strategic Agenda Matrix - FY'2000
- A Strategic Approach to Managing Federal Committees in EPA (DRAFT)
September 2000

In addition to the above, OCEM's FACA committees have also produced reports and publications as listed below.

- National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT)
Final Report and Recommendations of the Reinvention Criteria Committee
September 1999
- NACEPT Reinvention Criteria Committee's Final Report and Recommendations
"Incentives to Promote Environmental Stewardship" - December 1999
- National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT)
Past & Future Executive Summary - January 2000
- The National Advisory Committee (NAC) to the U.S. Representative to the
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Advisory Letters) - September 1999,
May 2000, June 2000
- The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Representative to the
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Advisory Letters) - January 2000,
April 2000, June 2000
- The Good Neighbor Environmental Board's (GNEB) Fourth Annual Report -
September 2000
- The Environmental Capital Markets Committee's "Green Dividends"
- The GNEB Brochure (*Draft*)